

**Minutes from the SSAB CHAIRS BI-MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL**  
**July 24, 2001**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM, EST**

Martha Crosland of HQ welcomed the following participants:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Oak Ridge      | Pete Osborne  |
| Paducah        | Mark Donham, Steve Kay,<br>Stacey Young                                     |
| Hanford        | Todd Martin   |
| Nevada         | Earle Dixon, Ted McAdam,<br>Kay Planamento, Carla Sanda                     |
| Los Alamos     | Barbara Harrelson, Toby Herzlich,<br>Terra Nash, Ted Taylor                 |
| Rocky Flats    | Gerry DePoorter   |
| Fernald        | Doug Sarno  |
| Idaho          | Stan Hobson, Wendy Green Lowe   |
| Savannah River | de’Lisa Bratcher  |
| Headquarters   | Martha Crosland, Judy Collins,<br>Betty Nolan, Megan Rudolph,<br>Jon Wright |

**1. LOCAL SSAB PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ISSUES/UPDATES**

**Oak Ridge**

- DOE-HQ appointed 7 new members to the Oak Ridge SSAB in July, bringing the board back to full membership of 20.
- The board will hold its annual planning retreat and meeting on August 3-4.
- The retreat will be facilitated by Doug Sarno and will include an evaluation of the past year's performance, plus input from the members, stakeholders, DOE, EPA, and state regulators on issues and activities for the upcoming year.
- Planning going into the retreat is that the existing committee structure (Environmental Restoration, Stewardship, and Waste Management) will remain intact.
- Discussions of each committee's scope will occur with full board participation (no break-outs).
- Incumbent officers (chair, vice-chair, and secretary) all accepted nominations for second terms, but nominations remain open, and elections will be held August 4.
- A presentation on the depleted UF6 cylinder program was heard at the June 13 board meeting.
- Oak Ridge SSAB chair Luther Gibson attended the EMAB ATIC meeting on June 13 and has supplied to Noeleen Tillman of GETF with a number of local stakeholder contacts for outreach on the dialogue associated with the planned national forum.
- On July 11, the board approved a letter to Secretary Abraham recommending full funding in FY 2002 for ongoing Oak Ridge EM projects and new initiatives to comply with milestones in the Federal Facilities Agreement for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

- A copy of the Abraham letter was also sent, along with its own cover letter, to regional officials, state legislators, and Tennessee Congressional delegation members.
- The board approved a letter transmitting a copy of the Abraham letter to Tennessee Governor Sundquist urging him to insist that the \$91 million shortfall be restored and that DOE adequately fund the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation DOE Oversight Division and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

### **Paducah**

- The Board has noticed that there is less money in the Paducah budget this year, hence the FFA deliverables will likely not be met. The Board is questioning whether or not the regulators are going to let DOE out of their deadlines.
- The Board sent a recommendation in to have a public meeting on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement concerning scrap metal meeting at DOE facilities across the country held in Paducah.
- At the last meeting, the Board added three new members.
- Task forces for the cleanup of operable units have been added to the Board.
- The committees have been busy in their respective fields.

### **Hanford**

- The State of Washington is considering enforcement action on DOE for failure to begin construction on a tank waste vitrification plant – the deadline for commencement is Friday, July 27, 2001 and building will not have begun.
- The HAB's next meeting is in September. This is the annual meeting where DOE, DOE-RL, EPA, ORP, WA Dept. of Ecology and the State Attorney General attend and look at the HAB's and Hanford's scope for the next year.
- The Board has sent in a couple of recommendations recently.
  1. The Board urges more NEPA evaluation before Hanford builds new low-level waste burial grounds.
  2. The Board is still interested in participating in the EM top to bottom review.
  3. The Board advises DOE on its budget.
- The HAB has questions about the plasma arc treatment center. The center is a private waste treatment center that had an accident last year when the melter broke down. It is up and running again. The HAB will tour the facility soon.
- The HAB added two new members.

### **Nevada**

- The CAB's 2001 Recruitment effort is completed. They will send a membership package to HQ soon. They will have twelve new members and hope to have them appointed by their September meeting, or at least by their retreat in October.
- The Transportation Waste Committee has been meeting every two weeks in training mode. They have been concentrating on low-level waste transportation and TRU waste, as TRU waste shipments to WIPP will begin in November.
- Bobbie McClure, NNSA/NV, and one CAB member will attend the Stewardship Conference in Grand Junction in August.

- The next CAB meeting is scheduled for the first Wednesday in September.
- The CAB's Programs Committee is drafting a more focused and structured public involvement plan/program in order to get more rural communities involved.
- The UGTA Peer Review report should be sent to the Site by late August. The CAB is interested how that report will impact the UGTA strategy and will have an opportunity to review and provide comments to the peer review team.

### **Los Alamos**

- The CAB recently submitted two recommendations to DOE on:
  1. Risk-Based Cleanup Levels
  2. WIPP TRU Waste Program and Use of the Arrow-Pack Container.
- The Board is recruiting a "general manager" for the CAB – a person who would be in charge of outreach and would supervise daily business of the CAB. They hope to hire someone within the next two weeks. The CAB office will have three full-time staffers – a technical advisor for the technical committees, a secretary and the aforementioned GM. The CAB will work with DOE to hire the best person.
- The CAB is working on the 2002 Budget.
- The CAB is continually working on recruitment of new members.
- The Board is extremely interested in the groundwater workshop in Georgia in November and would like to be involved.
- The CAB address has changed. It is now:
 

1660 Old Pecos Trail, Suite B  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
- The Board's next meeting is July 25, 2001. After this meeting, they will go from their previous monthly meetings to bimonthly meetings for a six-month trial period.

### **Rocky Flats**

- The Board is concerned with the Radioactive Soil Action Levels and the attempt to calculate how much needs to be done and define "how clean is clean." They are scheduling a special meeting to educate the public about the RSALs and hope to get a recommendation to DOE soon.
- The CAB just sent a recommendation to DOE regarding the Environmental Restoration Standard Operating Procedure and why long-term stewardship and the ALARA process were not included.
- The Board is currently polling their members, stakeholders and state officials about their 2002 Work Plan.
- Five CAB members will attend the Stewardship Workshop at Grand Junction.

### **Fernald**

- The CAB is still involved in the Future of Fernald process. Their main concern right now is how to design and fund the Education Center. They are holding a design competition to find the best design. They are also working with the University of Cincinnati on funding and design, as the University has expressed interest in being a partner.

- The Board will meet for their annual retreat in September. There are no meetings in August.

### **Idaho**

- The Board just finished their July meeting – a three day session in which they toured the Site and spent extensive time deliberating DOE's cleanup budget. The CAB has been studying the budget over the past two meetings and has covered all of DOE's big-ticket items. Very soon, the CAB will present DOE-ID with a recommendation that lists all cleanup projects in order of priority. DOE-ID was very helpful throughout this process and spent a good deal of time with the CAB. It is hoped the priority listing will be helpful to DOE.
- At this last meeting, the CAB also set their agenda for the next calendar year.
- The Board's next meeting is September 18-19, 2001.
- The Board has a static membership right now and is not actively recruiting new members.

### **Savannah River**

- The CAB meeting occurred at the same time as the conference call. There were committee meetings the night before.
- The next committee meetings are August 28, 2001.
- The next full board meeting will be October 22-23, 2001.

### **Pantex**

- Pantex was in a board meeting at the time of the conference call.

## **2. SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD ISSUES**

### **SSAB Chairs Meeting Agenda**

- Martha Crosland, HQ, sent a request to Jessie Hill Roberson, the new Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, asking that she attend the Chairs meeting but Martha has not received an answer yet. It was decided that if Assistant Secretary Roberson cannot attend the meeting, Martha would attempt to arrange a conference call between the Chairs and Ms. Roberson.
- Wendy Lowe, ID, explained the agenda for the upcoming Chairs' meeting and said the agenda was built around the hottest topics based on the survey results from all ten boards. There seemed to be interest in running the meeting like the one in Nevada in February, with round robins followed by brief comments and discussion. Survey results focused more on content this time, rather than on board process, which was the focus of the Nevada meeting.
- The agenda was discussed and revised by the Chairs.
- Martha Crosland, HQ, will invite Judith Holm, National Transportation Program, to attend the meeting on the second day.
- It was discussed and decided that discussion about the response from DOE regarding the budget letter the SSABs sent to the Secretary would be included in one of the sections, if said response has been received by the SSABs.

- Barbara Harrelson, NM, reminded everyone to prepay for their lunches for the meeting. The lunches are strongly encouraged as they are intended to be in the hotel so that the Chairs will miss little time away from the meeting. (Please make \$28 checks payable to ATA Services and send them to the NNM CAB at the address listed above.) In order to get the government rate, hotel registration should be concluded by July 27 or July 31, 2001 at the very latest. If anyone needs a registration form, they are encouraged to call the NNM CAB office on (505) 989-1662.

### **3. UPDATE – ITEMS OF INTEREST/CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY**

#### **PEIS Metals Recycling**

- The PEIS Metals Recycling is now in scoping. Hearings have been scheduled for Augusta, GA and Cincinnati, OH. Information was sent to the chairs, administrators and public participation coordinators a week ago, so if someone does not have it, they should call Martha Crosland, HQ, on (202) 586-5944.

#### **Confirmation of the new EM Assistant Secretary Jessie Hill Roberson**

- Ms. Roberson was sworn in on July 18, 2001.
- Patti Bubar will serve as a special assistant to Jessie Hill Roberson. They worked together at Rocky Flats.
- Paul Golan, also from Rocky Flats, will be moving to the front office to serve as Roberson's chief of staff.
- Tracy Mustin will serve as Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Integration and Disposition.

#### **Congressional Update**

- The two bills that affect DOE – the Interior Bill and the Energy and Water Bill – have passed both the House and the Senate. The bills will move into Conference shortly and are expected after the summer recess next week. There are no major red flags on either.
- The EM budget looks more positive than originally thought. It could be increased by as much as \$700 million.
- The Energy Bill will likely be debated on the House floor next week and should be acted on before the summer recess, August 3, 2001.

### **4. CLOSING REMARKS**

There is a facilitators conference call on July 25, 2001 to discuss the meeting.

Martha Crosland, HQ, thanked everyone for their participation and said she looked forward to seeing them at the meeting in August in Santa Fe.

